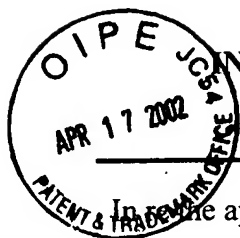


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Masajirou INOUE et al.**

Serial No.: **10/000,460 (Conf. No. 2302)**

Filed: **November 30, 2001**

For: **METHOD FOR FABRICATING A SEAL-
INTEGRATED SEPARATOR**

Attorney Docket No.: **SIW-024**

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

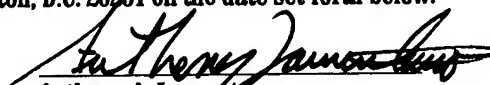
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March 28, 2002

Date of Signature and of Mail Deposit

By:


Anthony A. Laurentano
Reg. No. 38,220
Attorney for Applicants

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for fabricating a seal-integrated separator for a fuel cell, and seal-integrated separator including a separator body having a communication port, and seals which are integrated on both sides of said separator body and which are